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SAUDI ARABIA - EGYPT - YEMEN (SANA): Egypt agrees
to sell Soviet military equipment for transfer to
Yemen (Sana).

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SAUDI ARABIA - EGYPT - YEMEN {SANA}: SAUDI ARABIA WILL FINANCE THE PURCHASE OF SOVIET MILITARY EQUIPMENT FROM EGYPT FOR DELIVERY TO YEMEN {SANA} UNDER AN AGREEMENT CONCLUDED LAST WEEK.

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ALTHOUGH SANA'S MILITARY FORCES ARE NOW PRIMARILY EQUIPPED WITH SOVIET WEAPONS ACQUIRED DURING THE 1960S, THEY WILL PROBABLY NOT BE ABLE IMMEDIATELY TO USE MUCH OF THE NEW EQUIPMENT. THE DELIVERY OF THE NEW WEAPONRY, HOWEVER, WILL REDUCE SANA'S GROWING SENSE OF VULNERABILITY VIS-A-VIS THE REGIME IN ADEN, WHICH HAS BEEN RECEIVING SOVIET SUPPLIES STEADILY SINCE 1968.

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ASSISTANCE. THE EGYPTIANS WOULD ALSO LIKE TO BUTRESS THE MILITARY POSITION OF SANA AGAINST ADEN'S FORCES.

THE DEAL COULD CAUSE FURTHER PROBLEMS IN THE ALREADY DIFFICULT EGYPTIAN-SOVIET RELATIONSHIP, BUT CAIRO IS WILLING TO TAKE THIS RISK AND HAS APPARENTLY MADE NO SECRET OF ITS INTENTIONS;

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[REDACTED]

MILITARY HARDWARE TO MATCH THE SOVIET ARMS FLOWING INTO ADEN. ALTHOUGH MOSCOW WILL BE DISPLEASED, IT IS IN NO POSITION TO TAKE RETALIATORY ACTION AGAINST CAIRO. THE SOVIETS HAVE BEEN URGING EGYPT TOWARD GREATER INTER-ARAB COOPERATIVE EFFORTS, AND THEY HAVE ATTEMPTED TO MAINTAIN A FACADE OF FRIENDSHIP WITH SANA. [REDACTED]

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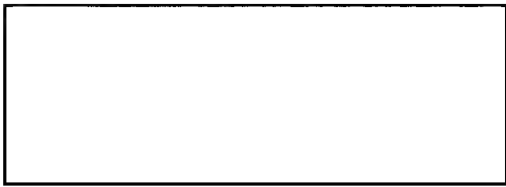
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